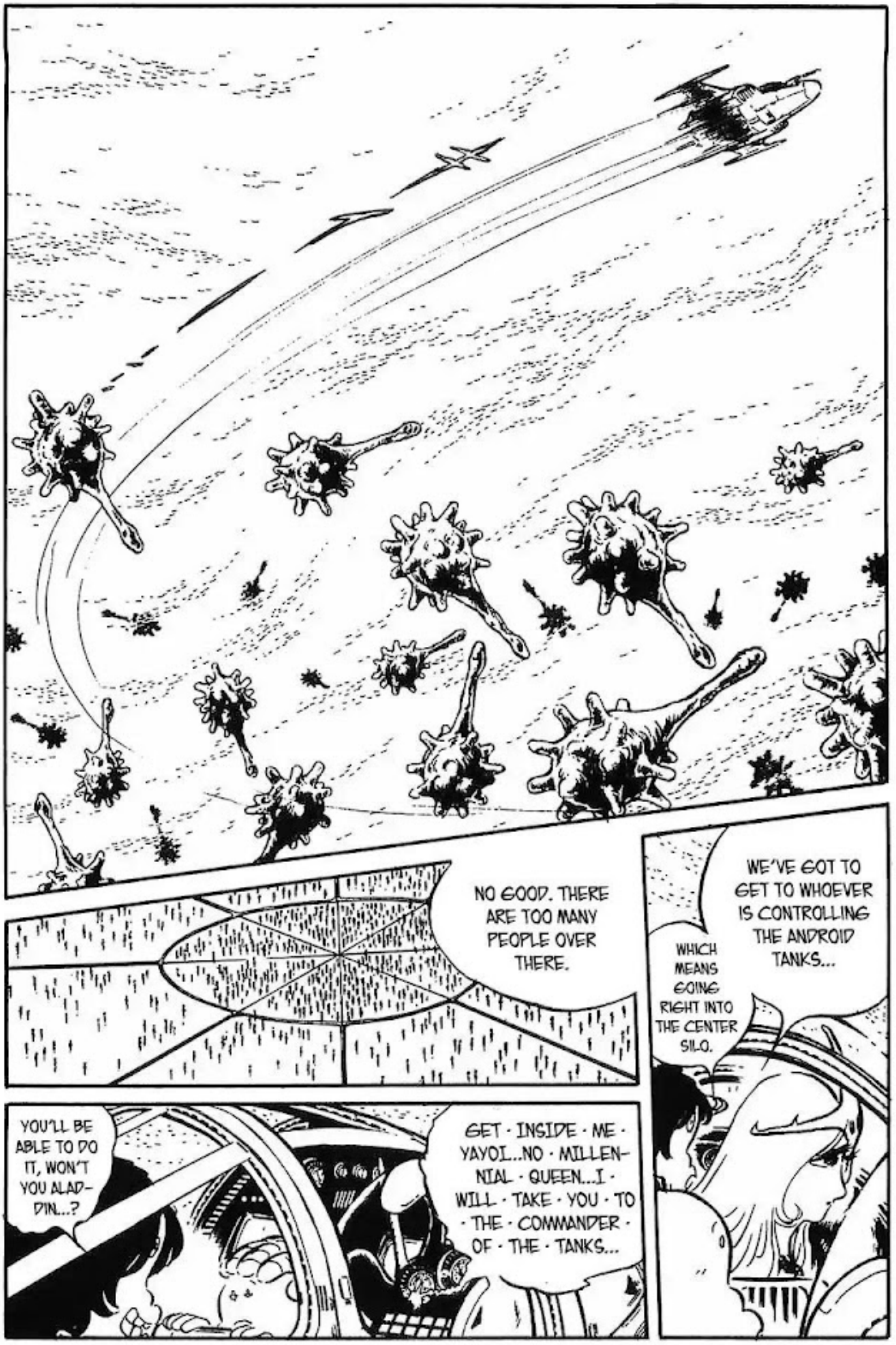
THOSE ARE CAVEMEN, YAYOI!!

NO, THEY AREN'T CAVEMEN, HASHIME...YOU'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE.

BUT...IT'S A PROBLEM. THEY ARE FIGHTING SO HARD THAT WE CAN'T APPROACH THE SILO.

THAT'S RIGHT. THOSE PEOPLE...


NO GOOD. THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE OVER THERE.
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING THE ANDROID TANKS...
WHICH MEANS GOING RIGHT INTO THE CENTER SILO.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO IT, WON'T YOU ALAD-DIN...?
GET · INSIDE · ME · YAYOI...NO · MILLEN-NIAL · QUEEN...I · WILL · TAKE · YOU · TO · THE · COMMANDER · OF · THE · TANKS...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO FAST ON MY ACCOUNT. TAKE YOUR TIME LOOKING FOR THE ENTRANCE. TAKE YOUR TIME!

I · MUST · CAREFULLY · CONSIDER · WHERE · TO · ENTER · THE · SILO...LET · US · DO · IT · QUICKLY

THERE!! THIS · PLACE · IS · BIGGER · THAN · EXPECTED...

IT'S · BORING · SO · I · WOULD · RATHER · GO · STRAIGHT · DOWN · THE · MIDDLE.

EH? DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND BY MYSELF!!

IN · A · MOMENT · MY · SENSORS · WILL · COMPLETE · THE · MEASURE-MENTS.

THE INTERIOR...IS LIKE A HUGE HALL. FROM THE SOUND I CAN'T TELL HOW BIG.

A QUITE TYPI-CAL STORAGE DEPOT FOR LA-METAL.

HUSH... DIAMETER · FOUR · KILO-METERS... HEIGHT · THREE · HUN-DRED · ME-TERS...CON-STRUCTED · IN · TEN · LEVELS...

I'D LIKE TO SAY HURRY UP, BUT THE WAY I FEEL RIGHT NEW I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR TIME, ALADDIN.

UNTIL · I · AM · TOLD · TO " STOP · I WILL · PROCEED · APACE... INDEED!!

ALADDIN, HOW FAR ARE WE GOING DOWN?

THE ANDROID TANKS THAT RAN AWAY ARE LINED UP OVER THERE!!

THEY SEE US WITH ALADDIN AND THEREFORE DON'T CONSIDER US A THREAT.

THIS DEPOT IS ENTIRELY MANAGED BY ANDROIDS.

THAT'S RIGHT. BUT HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO UPSIDE DOWN LIKE THIS? IT MAKES MY HEAD SPIN.

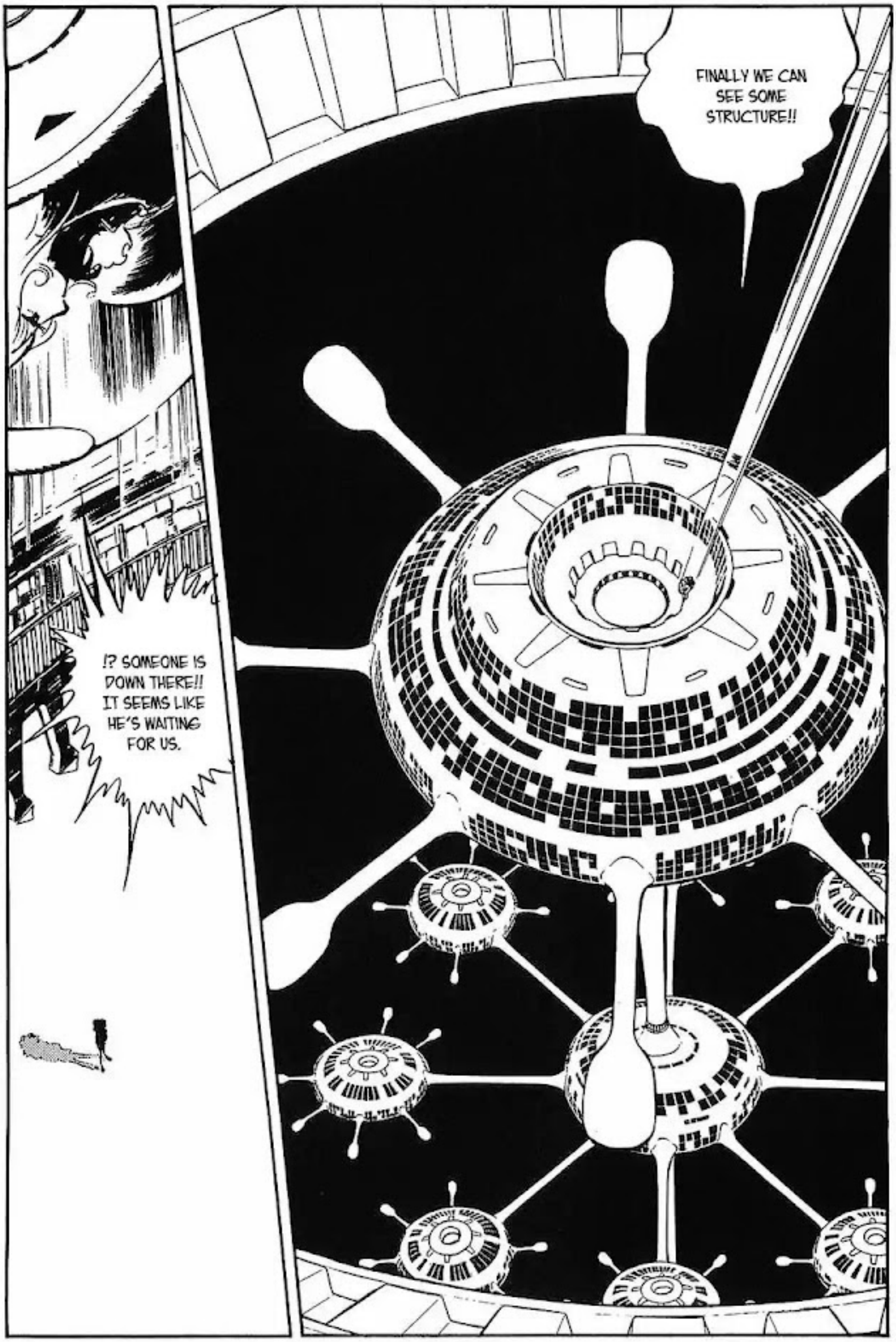
IT · IS · UNFORTUNATE · THAT · THEY · CONSIDER · ME · THE · SAME · CLASS · AS · THOSE · LOW · GRADE · ANDROID · TANKS

ON EVERY FLOOR THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE LIKE CAVEMEN WORKING AMONGST THE MACHINES...

BELOW · US · IS · THE · LOWEST · AREA!!

YAYOI, ARE THOSE EARTHLINGS? ON LA-METAL I I SAW PEOPLE WORKING AS IF THEY WERE SLAVES...

IT'S WEIRD THERE AREN'T ANY OBSTACLES, YAYOI!!


FINALLY WE CAN SEE SOME STRUCTURE!!
!? SOMEONE IS DOWN THERE!! IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S WAITING FOR US.

I BID YOU WELCOME.

THAT'S AN INTELLIGENT ANDROID. IS HE THE ONE IN CONTROL? HE LOOKS LIKE A SHADOW.

WELCOME, QUEEN AND HASHIME!!

HIS FACE IS LIKE A SILVER-COLORED HANIWA.*

*HANIWA: TERRACOTTA FIGURINE FROM 3RD-6TH CENTURY JAPAN

NONSENSE...YOU · CAN'T · COMPARE · ME · WITH · HIM.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE IS MUCH BETTER MADE THAN YOU, ALADDIN.

REVERED ALADDIN, I HAVE HEARD MUCH OF YOUR WONDERFUL POWERS FROM COMMANDER LEOPARDO AND LADY LARLELLA.

WHAT IS IT, ALADDIN?

HUH? THIS · ANDROID...

???

THIS · ANDROID...

WHAT IS IT? EVEN YAYOL

"DELA MARS FRONTIARA". SHALL WE SPEAK IN MY OFFICE? I APOLOGIZE ABOUT THE TANKS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS WELCOME. I SUPPOSE YOU WISH TO CONFER WITH US? WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

I THOUGH MAYBE THE CONTROLLER OF ANDROIDS WOULD HAVE US DRINKING OIL OR SOMETHING.

PHEW, THAT'S A RELIEF. THIS IS GOOD.

IT WAS ORDERS FROM LADY LARLELLA AND COMMANDER LEOPARDO TO KILL THE EARTHLINGS. I MERELY CARRIED OUT THEIR ORDERS.

THE ATTACK OF THE TANKS WAS SO AGGRESSIVE. WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO CONFER WITH US, MR. DELA MARS?

I KNOW. BUT WE ANDROIDS PROTECT THIS PLANET AS WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO.

ALL THAT REMAIN ON LA-METAL ARE YOU ANDROIDS. THOSE WHO ISSUED THE ORDERS HAVE ALL GONE TO EARTH.

THERE-FORE...

PROBABLY...THERE ARE THOSE HERE WHO PRO-VIDE MAINTENANCE FOR US. AND WE CAN REPAIR OURSELVES.

MR. DELA MARS...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO LA-METAL NOW? WILL THE ANDROIDS BE ABLE TO SURVIVE?

FROZEN FOREVER? LA-METAL?

WHEN PLANET LA-METAL IS FROZEN FOREVER...DO YOU THINK MACHINES WILL CONTINUE TO FUNC-TION? FOREVER?

I UNDERSTAND THAT AS LA-METAL MOVES AWAY FROM THE SUN, ICE WILL COVER THE PLANET STARTING FROM THE POLES.

I ONLY KNOW THAT WINTER COMES FOR NINE HUNDRED NINE-TY-NINE YEARS. AS WE APPROACH THE SUN, SPRING COMES AGAIN.

SPRING WILL NEVER COME AGAIN?

WHAT IF SPRING NEVER COMES AGAIN? IF THERE IS ONLY ETERNAL DARKNESS?

SO ALL THAT WILL BE LEFT ON LA-METAL IS MACHINES...MEANING WE ANDROIDS...!!

I AM TAKING ALL THE EARTHLINGS BACK TO EARTH. THAT INCLUDES THE SLAVES THAT REPAIR THE ANDROIDS AND THE SLAVE WARRIORS THAT PROTECT YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT...YOU ANDROIDS AND MACHINES WILL BE ALL THAT'S LEFT ON A LA-METAL OF ETERNAL FROZEN WINTER...

SPRING WILL NEVER COME AGAIN TO LA-METAL...

THEY ONLY SAID TO PROTECT LA-METAL FROM THE EARTHLINGS. TO KILL THEM WAS THE ONLY...

DID LARLELLA OR LEOPARDO REALLY NEVER SAY ANY-THING ABOUT IT?

SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE!! WE HAVE TO GO TO EARTH AT ONCE!!

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO THINK THIS OVER.

HUMANS FIGHT AND THINK ONLY OF THEMSELVES...

HUMANS CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

COME BACK WITH US TO EARTH. IF ANDROIDS HAVE MINDS, THEY ARE NO DIF-FERENT THAN PEOPLE. WE CAN ALL GET ALONG.

.....

WHAT AWAITS THIS PLANET LA-METAL IS DESTRUCTION AND DEATH....

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. LET ME SPEAK PLAINLY.

LA-METAL AND EARTH WILL NOT COLLIDE. NEITHER WILL THEY DESTROY EACH OTHER. THE AIR BRIDGE THAT JOINS THEM...WILL SOON BE CUT AND THE PLANETS WILL SEPARATE...

LA-METAL WILL THEN BE THROWN OUT OF ORBIT AROUND THE SUN. IN FACT, IT WILL ESCAPE THE GALAXY.

ETERNAL DARKNESS WILL RULE. LA-METAL WILL BECOME A COLD, DEAD PLANET FLYING TO THE ENDS OF THE UNIVERSE.

IT WILL FLY INTO THE COLD DARKNESS OF EMPTY SPACE, NEARLY DEVOID OF STARS...

IF THE DESTRUCTION OF LA-METAL IS COMING, HOW IS IT THAT EARTH WILL BE SAFE?

THE SCIENCE OF LA-METAL...GOES SO FAR AS TO CONTROL THE ORBITS OF THE PLANETS...I CANNOT ACCEPT THIS!!

THE CONNECTION WITH EARTH WILL REMAIN ONLY A FEW MORE HOURS...THE TIME OF ETERNAL SEPARATION IS AT HAND...THE TWO WILL NEVER MEET AGAIN...

.....

SO YOU SAW THE CONTROL DEVICE...DELA MARS FRONTIARA...NORMALLY MACHINES...THAT IS, ANDROIDS...ARE NEVER ALLOWED IN THAT PLACE.

BUT FINE. YOU MUST BE AWARE THAT COMMANDER LEOPARDO'S SPACE COMMAND WENT TO OBSERVE THE DARK STAR LAR. TO THE CENTER OF THE VERTICAL PLANE OF THE GALAXY...

.....

DARK STAR LAR...I SAW IT TOO.

THAT'S RIGHT, DELA MARS FRONTIARA!!

THE POWER OF LA-METAL FORCED AN ALIGNMENT OF THE PLANETS...I SAW THE DEVICE THAT DID IT IN THE BASEMENT OF LADY LARLELLA'S PALACE.

IF A CATASTROPHE IS COMING THAT WILL DESTROY LA-METAL, EVEN THOUGH LA-METAL POSSESSES SUCH A CONTROL DEVICE, HOW WILL THE EARTH OR EVEN THE SUN SURVIVE...?

ARE YOU SAYING THAT LAR ONLY AFFECTS LA-METAL!?

WHETHER LA-METAL WAS BORN AS PART OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM...OR WHETHER IT CAME FROM ELSEWHERE AND WAS COERCED INTO ORBIT BY THE SUN'S GRAVITY...

TO THIS DAY NO ONE KNOWS.

BUT ONE THING IS CLEAR...THE DIMENSIONAL GRAVITY OF DARK STAR LAR, CURRENTLY TRANSITING THE VERTICAL PLANE OF THE GALAXY...

FOR SOME MYSTERIOUS REASON ACTS ONLY ON LA-METAL...IT IS UNIMAGINABLE THAT ONLY LA-METAL WOULD BE PULLED BY LAR INTO UNKNOWN SPACE. BUT IT IS A HORRIFIC FACT.

PLANET LA-METAL, THOUGH IT FOLLOWS THE LAWS OF PHYSICS, IS STRANGE BEYOND ANY OTHER PLANET...

WHILE IT IS NINE TIMES THE SIZE OF EARTH, ITS GRAVITY AND ATMOSPHERE ARE THE SAME AS EARTH'S... ORIGINALLY IT WAS A HUGE PLANET IN THE CATEGORY OF SATURN OR JUPITER COVERED WITH A THICK LAYER OF CLOUDS...

IN TIME THE FIRST DAWN OF DAY IN THE YEAR 2000 A.D. ARRIVED. THE TWO PLANETS GREETED EACH OTHER IN THE FIRST DAWN OF THEIR FINAL MEETING...

IF IT BUT HAD THE BLESSING OF LIGHT...PLANET LA-METAL WOULD BE A GENTLE, QUIET, AND PEACEFUL HEAVEN IN THIS WORLD...

I WISH IT COULD KEEP ALIGNING WITH EARTH FOREVER HERE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

A · LOT · OF · BAD · THINGS · ARE · COMING · HASHIME!!

DOOD

WH- WHAT'S THAT!?

//.....

IT'S A YAYOI ARMADA! A HORDE!

B- BUT · I'M · NOT · SO · SURE · THE · NEXT · IS · AT · ALL · APPROPRIATE · FOR · NEW · YEAR'S...AHH... THEY'RE · HERE!

THAT · A · HORDE · OF · YAYOI · YUKINOS · WOULD · SHOW · UP · FOR · NEW · YEAR'S · IS · CAUSE · FOR · CELE-BRATION...

(LARGE SFX) UWAHHH

GIMME A BREAK! AN ARMADA OF ME IS GROSS! HELP ME OUT HERE!

WHEN EACH ANDROID WAS ALLOWED TO REMAKE ITSELF WITH A NEW FACE...

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

EXACTLY.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED?

HA HA, THAT'S RIGHT. LET'S HAVE THEM REVERT TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL FACES.

BUT · THIS · WAY · WE · CAN'T · TELL · WHICH · IS · WHICH.

ALL MACHINE-TYPE AND HUMAN-TYPE ANDROIDS WILL GO...BUT I INTEND TO REMAIN ON LA-METAL.

DELA MARS FRONTIARA... HAVE YOU DECIDED IF YOU ARE COMING WITH US TO EARTH?

WAHH...NO · NO...STAY · AWAY · FROM ME!

IT · CAN'T · BE...

EVEN IF I GO TO EARTH, I WILL NEVER BE AT PEACE. I LIVE ON LA-METAL, AND EVEN THOUGH IT BE FROZEN, I THINK IT IS THE MOST FITTING PLACE FOR ME.

WHY?

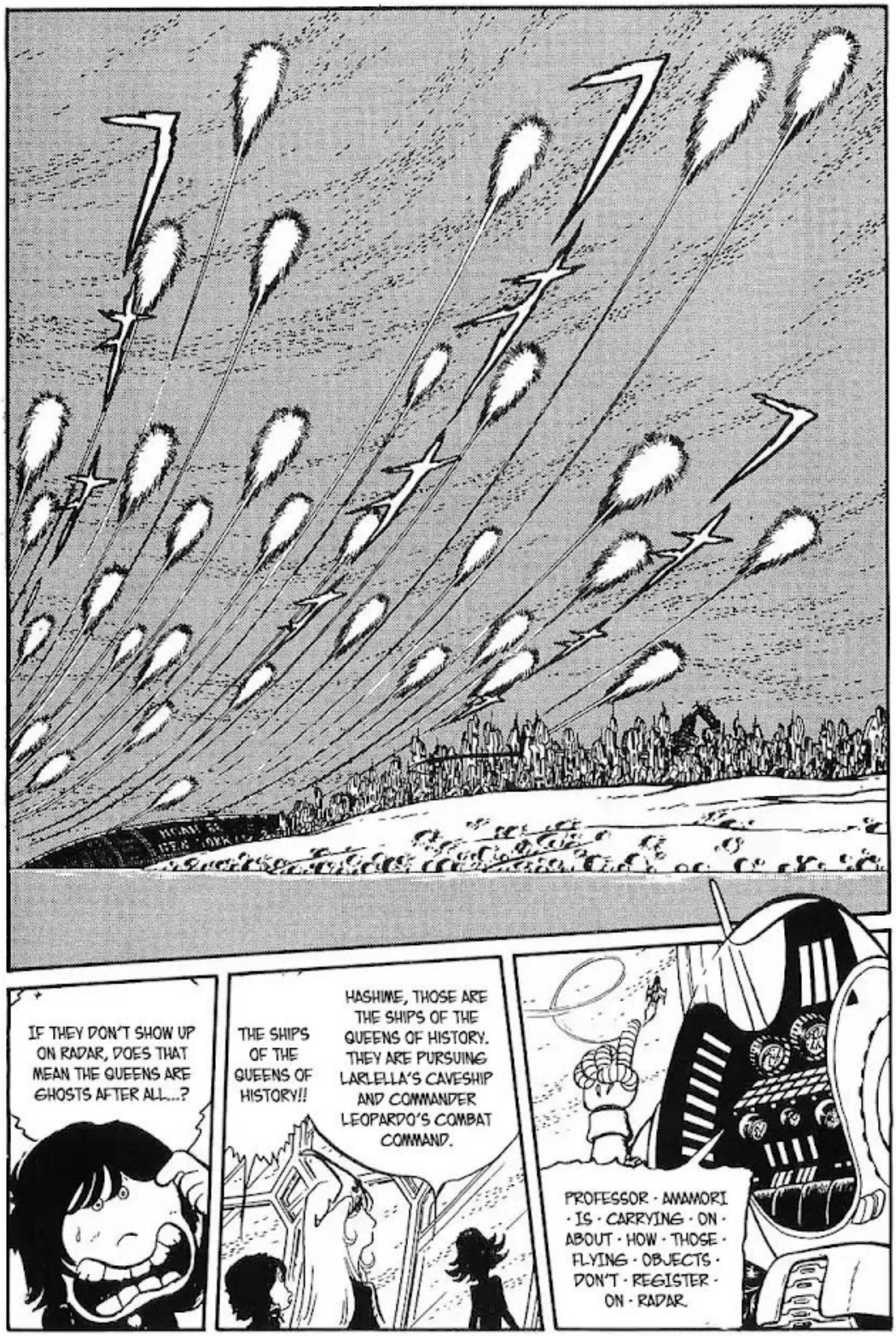
.....

I AM ANDROID DELA MARS FRONTIARA. PLEASE DO NOT INQUIRE FURTHER INTO MY PRIVATE AFFAIRS.

YAYOI!! THERE ARE SOME EERIE BLUE LIGHTS RISING IN THE SKY FROM THE AREA OF THE SHORE WHERE THE CAVESHIPS LANDED!!

PLEASE FORGET ABOUT ME.

IF PERHAPS YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND...AND YOU WISH TO COME TO EARTH AFTER ALL, WE'LL BE READY TO COME GET YOU UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT POSSIBLE.


IF THEY DON'T SHOW UP ON RADAR, DOES THAT MEAN THE QUEENS ARE GHOSTS AFTER ALL...?
THE SHIPS OF THE QUEENS OF HISTORY!!
HASHIME, THOSE ARE THE SHIPS OF THE QUEENS OF HISTORY. THEY ARE PURSUING LARLELLA'S CAVESHIP AND COMMANDER LEOPARDO'S COMBAT COMMAND.
PROFESSOR · AMAMORI · IS · CARRYING · ON · ABOUT · HOW · THOSE · FLYING · OBJECTS · DON'T · REGISTER · ON · RADAR.

WAH! THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE FIRST SHIP FROM LA-METAL THAT WE SAW!!

TREATING THEM AS GHOSTS DOESN'T PUT THEM IN THE BEST LIGHT, HASHIME.

SO THE QUEENS DEPART...I WISH THEM WELL IN ALL ETERNITY.

DELA MARS FRONTIARA... COME WITH YOUR ANDROIDS AND SUPPORT PEOPLE TO THE EMIGRATION SHIP...IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BOARD...WE ARE GOING TO EARTH.

PHEW! YOU GUYS ARE FINALLY BACK. YOU WERE TERRIBLE TO LEAVE THE OLD GUY BEHIND!!

DELA MARS FRONTIARA... SEEMS SO LONELY.

BUT UNLESS HE CHANGES HIS MIND THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO...

THIS · RECONNAIS-SANCE · CRAFT · FLIES · QUITE · WELL · WITHOUT · A · PILOT...INDEED

WHAT WOULD THOSE MONSTER HAVE DONE IF I'D FALLEN IN AMONGST THEM?

TO EARTH?

UNCLE, WE'RE GOING BACK TO EARH!!

THE PEOPLE MAY SEEM LIKE CAVEMEN, BUT THE REASON THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU IS ONLY THAT THEIR LANGUAGE HAS DIVERGED DUE TO THE LONG PERIOD THEY HAVE BEEN ON LA-METAL. YOU'LL NEED AUTOMATIC TRANSLATORS.

SEND THE LARGE SHIPS FROM THE CAVESHIPS TO PICK UP THE ANDROIDS AND EARTHLINGS WORKING HERE.

WOAH! UFOS!!

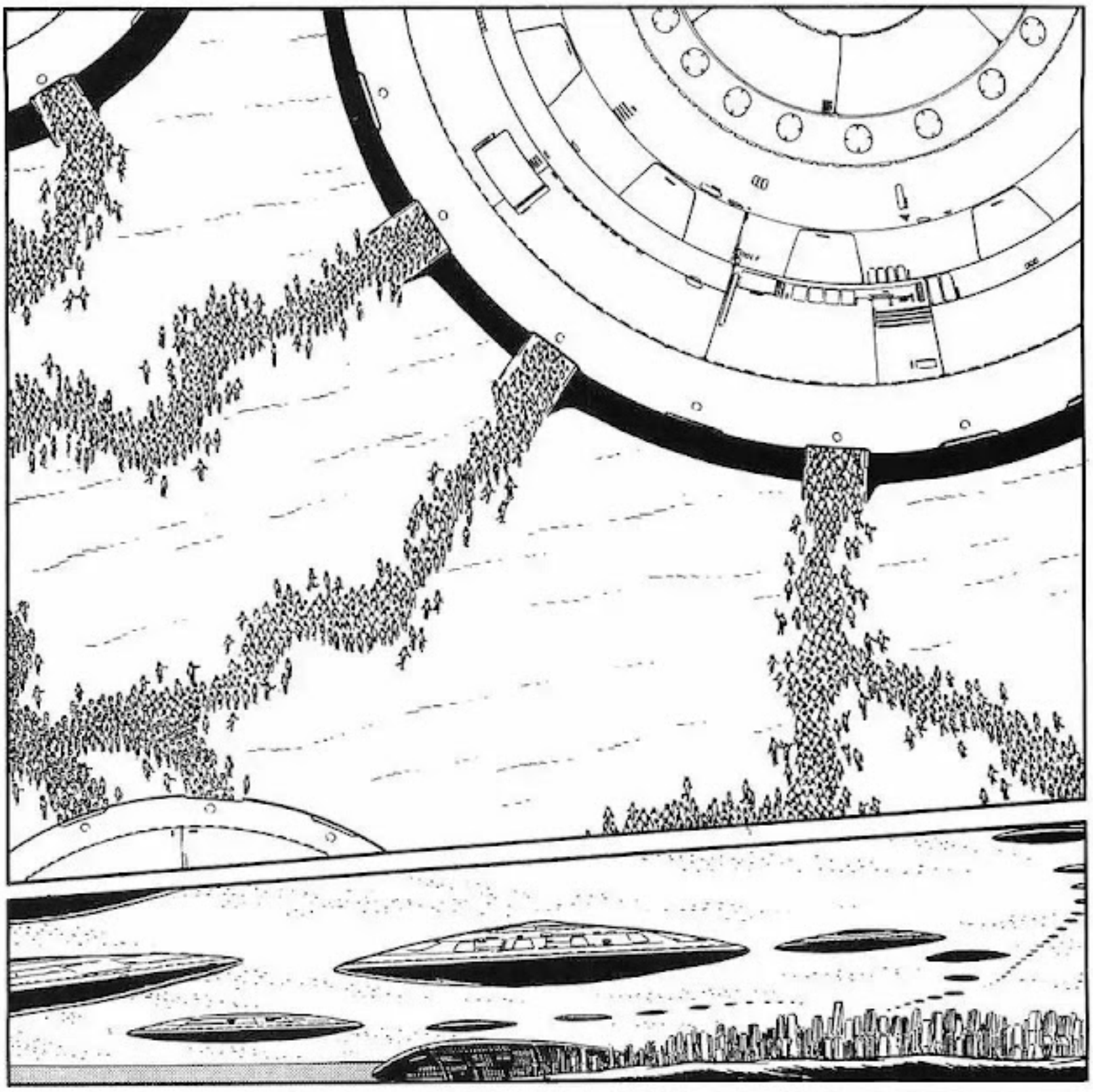
THIS TYPE IS THE MOST EFFICIENT FOR TRANS-PORTING LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND MATERIEL.

THEY HAD TO WORK EVEN DURING THE FROZEN TIME AWAY FROM THE SUN!?

WHILE LA-METAL SLEPT THOUGH ITS FROZEN WINTERS, THEY MANAGED THE MACHINERY AND LOOKED AFTER THE SLEEPING INHABI-TANTS OF LA-METAL...

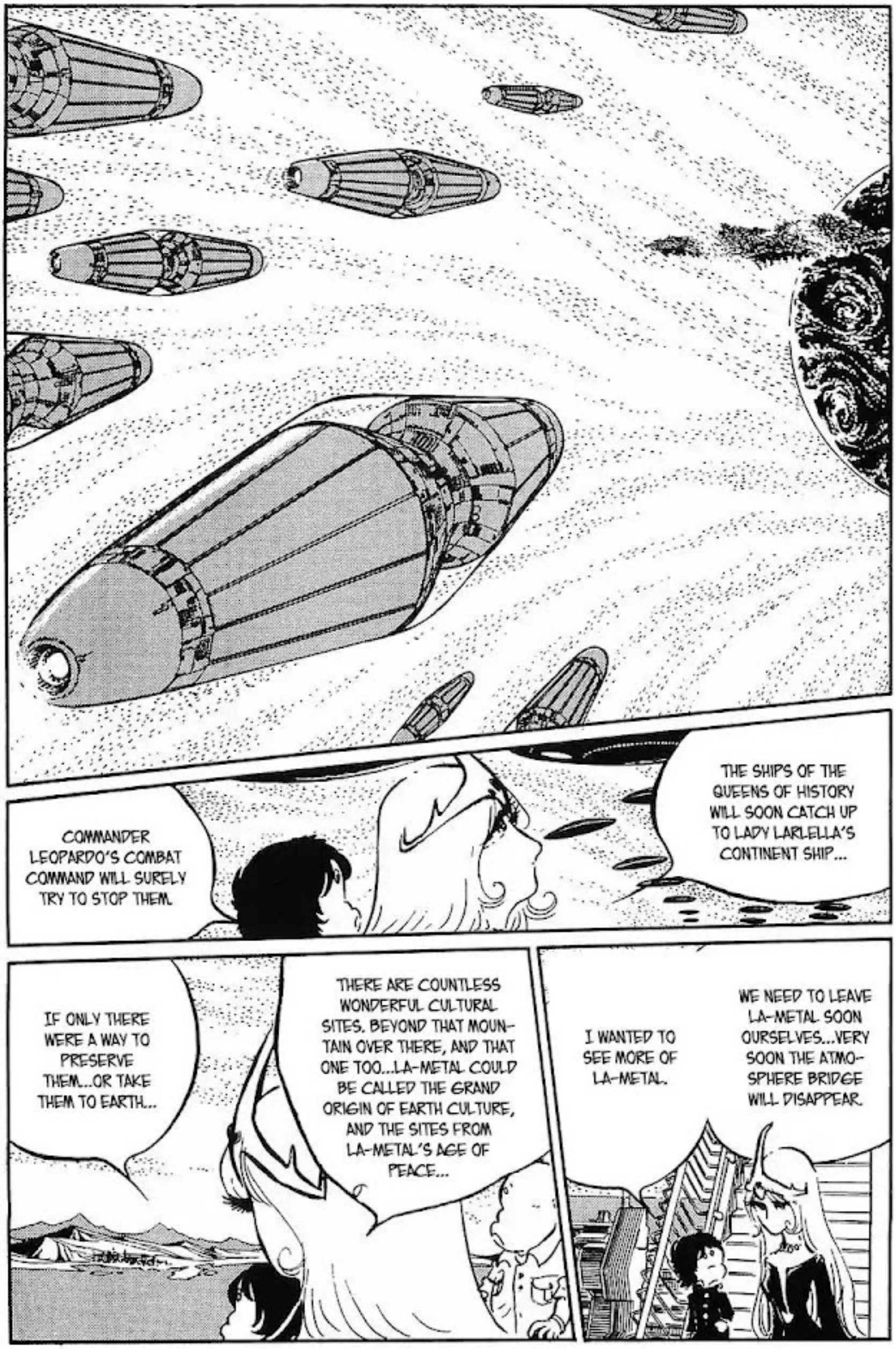
IT WOULD BE MORE CORRECT TO SAY...THEY ARE DESCENDANTS OF EARTHLINGS THAT CAME MUCH LONGER AGO THAT THAT.

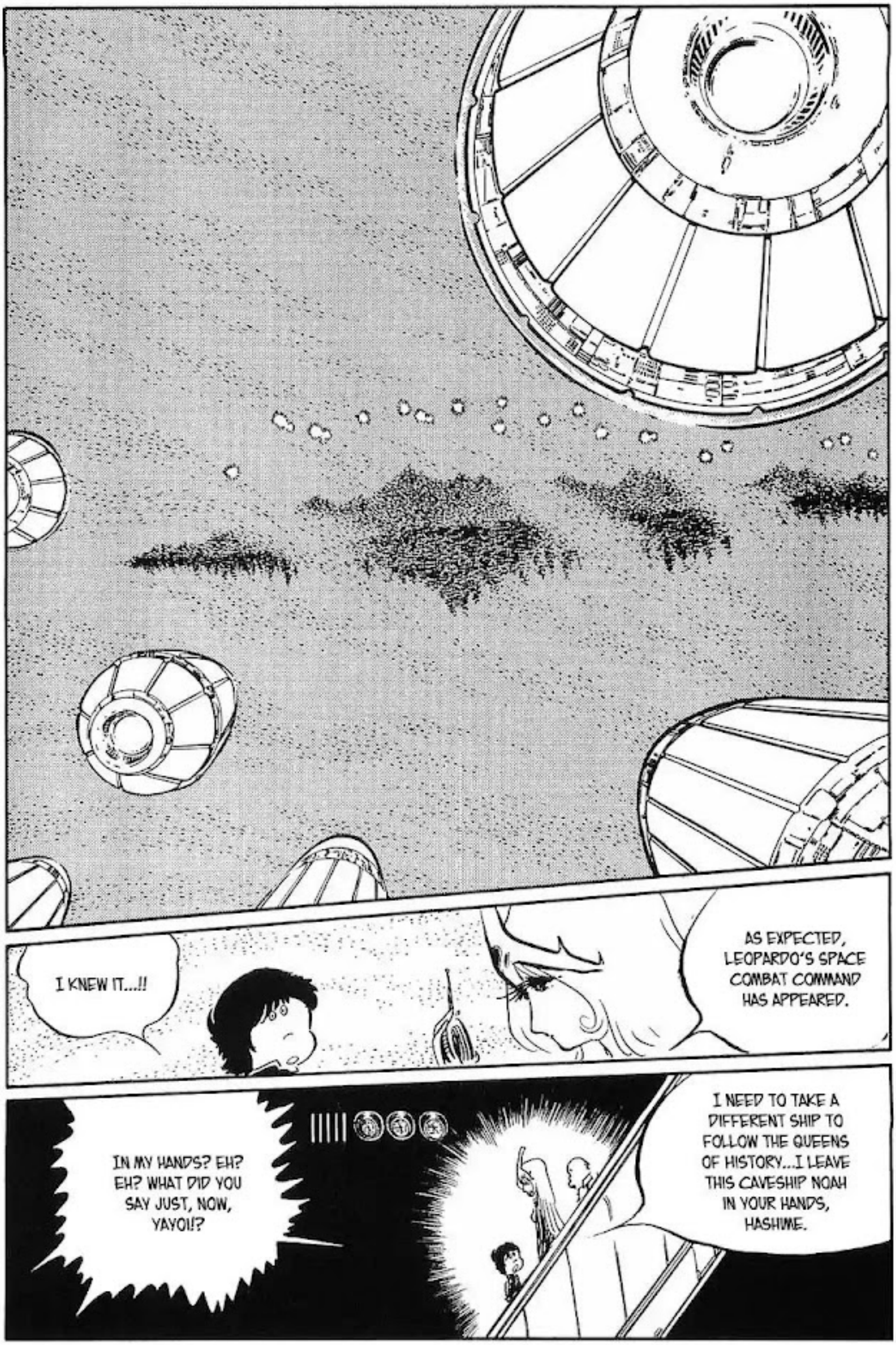
THERE WERE LOTS OF EARTHLINGS ON LARLELLA'S CONTI-NENT-SHIP. SHE SAID THEY CAME TO LA-MET-AL FROM EARTH A THOU-SAND YEARS AGO.



THE POPULATION OF EARTH WILL RISE AGAIN.
THEY ARE REALLY LOADING UP TO COME HOME.
WITHOUT THE LABOR OF THE EARTHLINGS, THE PEOPLE OF LA-METAL WOULD HAVE DIED DURING THE WINTERS!...THOUGH THEY CONTEMPTUOUSLY CALLED THEM EARTH MONKEYS, THE EARTHLINGS WERE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THEIR WELLBEING.

YOU WON'T EVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ON EARTH AGAIN, PROFESSOR...EARTH HAS CHANGED. YOU'LL SEE WHEN YOU GET BACK.
I HOPE WE DON'T SEE MORE WARS FOUGHT OVER FOOD SUPPLY AND THE LIKE...


COMMANDER LEOPARDO'S COMBAT COMMAND WILL SURELY TRY TO STOP THEM.
THE SHIPS OF THE QUEENS OF HISTORY WILL SOON CATCH UP TO LADY LARLELLA'S CONTINENT SHIP...
IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY TO PRESERVE THEM...OR TAKE THEM TO EARTH...
THERE ARE COUNTLESS WONDERFUL CULTURAL SITES. BEYOND THAT MOUNTAIN OVER THERE, AND THAT ONE TOO...LA-METAL COULD BE CALLED THE GRAND ORIGIN OF EARTH CULTURE, AND THE SITES FROM LA-METAL'S AGE OF PEACE...
I WANTED TO SEE MORE OF LA-METAL.
WE NEED TO LEAVE LA-METAL SOON OURSELVES...VERY SOON THE ATMOSPHERE BRIDGE WILL DISAPPEAR.


I KNEW IT...!!
AS EXPECTED, LEOPARDO'S SPACE COMBAT COMMAND HAS APPEARED.
IN MY HANDS? EH? EH? WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST, NOW, YAYOI!?
I NEED TO TAKE A DIFFERENT SHIP TO FOLLOW THE QUEENS OF HISTORY...I LEAVE THIS CAVESHIP NOAH IN YOUR HANDS, HASHIME.

AH...AH...AH...YOU DID PUT ME ON A TRANSFORMATION MACHINE THAT TIME...IT STUFFED ME FULL OF KNOWLEDGE, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN IT ALL.

YOU'RE A GENIUS NOW, HASHIME!!

THANK YOU

YOUR SHIP IS READY WHENEVER YOUR REQUIRE IT.

THINK! YOU GOT KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO HANDLE THIS CAVESHIP THEN.

M- MAYBE IT GOT MESSED UP...

I AM. IF YOU ARE WORRIED, PERHAPS I SHOULD GIVE YOU ANOTHER RIDE ON THE TRANSFORMATION MACHINE?

I DON'T LIKE THAT THING, SO NO THANKS.

YAYOI...ARE YOU SERIOUSLY LEAVING THIS CAVESHIP IN THE HANDS OF HASHIME...??

IT · IS · INDEED · HORRENDOUS

YAYOI IS TALKING CRAZY.

BUT THE THING IS...I DON'T FEEL LIKE I REMEMBER ANYTHING.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, HASHIME!! YOU HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE BURIED INSIDE YOUR MEMORY TO KNOW HOW TO OPERATE CAVESHIP NOAH.

I'M WORRIED SICK. MY BRAINS ARE A BLANK.

DON'T WORRY.

DAMN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALADDIN!?

HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE

GEH

(SFX) WHACK

DID · A · BASH · ON · YOUR · NOGGIN · DO · THE · TRICK?

ON · EARTH · THERE · IS · AN · OLD · SAYING · THAT · GIVING · A · MACHINE · A · SHARP · WHACK · IS · A · GOOD · WAY · TO · FIX · IT

YOU CERTAINLY ENJOY WHACKING ON YOUR FRIEND! HAVE YOU NO SHAME, ALADDIN!?

(SFX) WHACK

GUWAHHH

MUHI

BEEP

HASHIME...CALM DOWN AND THINK.

DIE!

I · ONLY · DID · IT · BECAUSE · YAYOI · ASKED * ME · TO...IT · IS · AN · EFFECTIVE · METHOD · OF · REPAIR.

(SFX) BEEP-A-BEEP-A-BEEP-A

HOW DO YOU FEEL, HASHIME?

...HMM...

I HAVE INSIDE MY HEAD KNOWLEDGE FROM A COUNTLESS PILE OF BOOKS.

COME TO THINK OF IT, ALL OF A SUDDEN

THAT'S ALL VERY WELL, BUT ALADDIN KICKED THE BUCKET. HEY!!